



ECONOMY

Ministry of Economy and Finances and USAID solidify relationship

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of Economy and Finance and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Kosovo was signed on August 31. The MOU strengthens the process of economic development in Kosovo through advisors providing the ministerial staff with experience in managing fiscal public policies.

"We have an expression, that you start to build your house with help from God, family and friends," said Haki Shatri, the Minister of Economy and Finance, who signed the memorandum along with Dr. Ken Yamashita, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director.

"Our work in Kosovo is identical - our work in Kosovo is being accomplished in this way, with the help of our friends, USAID," as he thanked the American people for the assistance. "Without hesitation, I would like to say, the most important kudos go to USAID advisors. I must stress the support we've had since the first day when the ministry was created, in all areas of the ministry, in budget, treasury, macroeconomic analysis, fiscal policy and so on."

"This MOU reflects a new phase in our assistance," said Yamashita. "This is an acknowledgement of the maturation of our relationship, and with this memo, we are more partners and equals - both USAID and the Ministry have responsibilities."

Trepca Mines reopen

Dr. Ken Yamashita, USAID/Kosovo Mission Director participated at the opening of the Trepca Mines in Mitrovicë/a on August 22.

Yamashita was accompanied by Et'hem Ceku, Minister of Mines and Energy, Joachim Ruecker, Head of Pillar IV, which administers the economic development of Kosovo, and other guests.

During the coming three months, the mines will be going through an experimental operation as a testing phase to validate the possibility of its economic sustainability. The re-functioning of the mines will improve the social welfare of the citizens, especially since the market for mining products is exceptional.

Trepca was the main employer in the Mitrovica region before it was closed in the early 90's. Due to a decade of neglect it took years to pump out the water that blocked the route to the exploitation chambers.



First Kosovo-raised chickens sold in the markets

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Miss Koko Comes to Town

Viva supermarkets in Pristina are now selling the new "Miss Koko" Kosovo-raised fresh chickens, thanks to the help from USAID's Kosovo Cluster and Business Support (KCBS) project.

The fresh chickens are from Agraria Commerce, Fushe Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, which has been working with the KCBS project in raising chickens here in Kosovo. Most chicken currently available in stores is frozen imports (from Brazil and other countries). Pristina-customers could start buying the fresh chicken in early August.

DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION

Cross Ethnic Cooperation

Eight kilometers of gravel road linking 2,720 Albanian and Serb Kosovars is the result of a continuous work of Kamenice/a municipal officials, the Community Working Group (CWG) in Kololeq/Kololec, and USAID's Municipal Infrastructure and Support Initiative (MISI).

In the last several months the road that links the villages of Kololeq/Kololec, Qarakoc/Carakovc, Dajkoc/Dajkovac, and Muqiverc/Muciverc has linked Albanian Kosovar and Serbian Kosovar community members who engaged in a priority process and advocated successfully to the municipal officials, Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) and K-Forces (KFOR) support. In their effort to express their appreciation, the communities organized a special event on August 20 for all involved in the project.

Similar to Kololeq/Kololec, Medvec/Medvece, a small mixed village of Albanians, Roma and Ashkali Kosovars in Lipjan/Lipljan municipality, on August 23 celebrated the construction of a new road.

The community of Medvec/Medvece was the first to establish a Working Group, which has worked hard to compete with other communities for funds, and their advocacy capabilities ensured them additional funds from USAID's Municipal Infrastructure and Support Initiative (MISI) for the road completion.

Communities Together

Bajmoc/Babin Most, a small community of 1,227 Albanian and Serbian Kosovars in Obiliq/Obilic municipality dedicated a small but important infrastructure project. The construction of a septic tank was vital to the health of the residents and improvement of environment in the village. The project removed the hazard created by sewage dumped in open ditches, which after rain used to flow into well water and pose a health risk.

"The importance of this project lies with the people present today, both Albanian and Serbian as members of one community - this is why this project is important," said Ismet Hashani, Mayor of Obiliq/Obilic.

The heavy rain didn't prevent the municipal officials and members of Community Working Group to celebrate the community's success in cooperation with USAID's Municipal Infrastructure and Support Initiative (MISI). This cooperative effort helped solve a health hazard and bridged the ethnic divide, along with linking village and municipal officials.

SPECIAL INITIATIVES

New Activity Kicks Off

Initiative for Inclusion, a USAID/Kosovo funded project implemented through the Mental Disability Rights International started this August. The project is designed to train public policy-makers and non-governmental organizations to ensure that people with mental disabilities are integrated into society.

MDRI works closely with the recognized local community groups and organizations and leads an initiative that aims at building capacity of community allies (women, youth groups, etc), creation of peer support programs, establishment of an independent Mental Disability Rights Committee, and promotion of inclusive and appropriate government policies.

Upcoming Events

September 6, Participants of the USAID Trade Policy Training will present their trip findings to the public.

September 7, USAID/Kosovo will host a meeting of officials from municipalities participating in USAID's Local Government Initiative.

September 9, Dr. Ken Yamashita, USAID/Kosovo Director will dedicate the renovation of the Cultural House in the village of Milloshevë/a, Obiliq/Obilic municipality.



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